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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1960







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Additional Public Health Inspectors	.. ..	*S. REEVES, B.A., Cert. S.I.B. <i>until Sept. 1960</i>
		*W. T. DITCHFIELD Cert. S.I.B. Certified Smoke Insp. (R.S.H.)
		*N. G. MAYNE, Cert. S.I.B. San Science Certified Smoke Insp. (R.S.H.)
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Pupil Inspector	.. ..	Mr. P. J. GUY <i>until Sept. 1960</i>

\*—Qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).





# WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1960

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,  
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration and approval my Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and the Vital Statistics for the Rural District during the Year 1960. As events have turned out this will be the last Annual Report I shall be presenting to you, and I should therefore like to place on record the happy associations I have enjoyed during my term of office, as Medical Officer of Health, with all members of the Council, and of the Health Committee past and present. I feel that I have been accorded a high degree of confidence, and in my view I have, I hope, honoured the trust reposed in me to your own satisfaction: certainly I have always endeavoured to do so, and am very appreciative of, and very grateful for, the happy atmosphere of our relationship.

There has been no change in the area or the boundaries of the Authority during the year, and little change in population as estimated by the Registrar General for the mid-year "Home Population", which was 32,200 as compared with 32,130 in 1959. (It may perhaps be mentioned here that this figure may perhaps be somewhat on the high side, as the actual Census figure for 1961 is now known to be 30,709.)

Live births showed an increase of 68, being 573 as against 505 in 1959, and the crude birth-rate was thus 17·8 per 1,000 population compared with 15·7 per 1,000: the "adjusted" birth-rate was 17·1 per 1,000 as against 15·2 per 1,000 last year, a satisfactory and material increase. The crude birth-rate of 17·8 is the highest since 1947 when it was 18·8 per 1,000, the tail-end of the so-called "post-war bulge". Deaths assignable to the district at 357, giving a crude death-rate of 11·1 per 1,000 population, were 33 more than in 1959, and the crude rate showed an increase of 1 per 1,000 — not a very significant difference: while the "natural increase" (of births over deaths), was 216, or 35 more than the comparable figure in 1959. The overall trend has thus been a favourable one in so far as these figures are concerned.

The position as regards other indices, the still-birth rate and the perinatal death-rate has not however shewn such a satisfactory trend : the still-birth rate was 22 per 1,000 total births in contrast to 16 per 1,000 a year ago, and deaths during the first week of life were 6 in number, giving a combined or "period natal" mortality rate of 32 per 1,000 total (live & still) births, as compared with 25 per 1,000 in 1959. Although the "neo-natal" mortality rate of 10·5 per 1,000 was somewhat better than last year's rate of 11·9 per 1,000, the total infant mortality rate (based on the 9 deaths of babies during the first year of life), was rather worse, being nearly 16 per 1,000 compared with 14 per 1,000 during the previous year. Even so, this is on the whole a figure which does credit to the district : it is 5 per 1,000 below the mean for the five years 1955-59 — the "quinquennial mean" — and is less than one-third of the infant mortality rate for the district less than one generation ago : in 1937 the rate was 49 per 1,000, so that one in every twenty children born during that year failed to survive the first year of life.

The ratio of illegitimate to total births was once again a low one; only 2·4% of the babies born alive were illegitimate, a much lower proportion than in many other comparable districts in Lancashire and elsewhere. There was, unfortunately, one "maternal death" during the year — the first since 1955. This death took place in hospital despite every possible facility and specialist obstetric care.

Examination of the causes of death reveals the usual sequence of frequencies. Diseases of the heart and circulation head the list ; of the total 357 deaths no fewer than 208 or 58% were due to this group of illnesses of which coronary disease and angina pectoris caused 76 deaths, cerebro-vascular disease ("strokes") 25 deaths, heart disease with hypertension 11, other heart diseases 83, and other circulatory diseases 13. In second place comes cancer, with a total of 56 deaths, of which the largest single group was due to cancer of the lungs or bronchi with 13, followed by cancer of the stomach (11), of the breast (4) and other malignant growths (28). Despite the major importance of cancer, the incidence (as judged by the mortality caused) is considerably less than in 1959, when the total cases numbered 71, and constituted 22% of the total of all deaths during the year : in 1960 the proportion has been less than 16%. (Expressed as a rate per 1,000 of the population, the cancer death-rate at 15·7 per 1,000 is less than the rates for the last three years, and is the first departure from the upward trend evident since 1955). Diseases of the respiratory system, or mainly affecting that system of the body (bronchitis, pneumonia and other diseases of the system) come in third place, having caused 38 deaths, followed by "other defined and ill-defined diseases", with 26, and deaths from violence in one form or another with 13, of which 10 were due to accident and 3 to suicide — of the former, only 2 were due to motor vehicles.



The incidence of all types of notifiable disease has been very low, and the grand total of only 98 notifications is the lowest since 1947, and a new low record during my own term of office. Very unusually, whooping cough provided the largest number of notifications, amounting to 31, with measles (usually well in the lead) being 25, scarlet fever 20, and respiratory tuberculosis 13. The only deaths resulting from notifiable diseases, if one excludes those from the primary pneumonias, were 2, both from respiratory tuberculosis: but 16 persons died from primary pneumonia, although only 5 cases of the disease were notified – a most unusual anomaly.

No notifications were received in respect of any of the following diseases: diphtheria, the enteric group (typhoid group) fevers, meningitis, ophthalmia-neonatorum, or erysipelas. There was but one isolated case of food-poisoning.

Although in general it may be said that environmental conditions are reasonably satisfactory, and that great strides have been made during the last decade, the following matters still require attention: Completion of the main drainage and sewerage schemes in Croft, Winwick, Houghton Green and Glazebrook, and the subsequent conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system: the making up and surfacing of a number of streets serving residential property: the provision of further houses, and the modernisation of older but still serviceable dwellings; and the delineation of smokeless areas in consultation with schemes proposed by the County Borough of Warrington. There is still room, also, for improvements in the lavatory and ablution facilities at some of the older schools in the District.

In Section IX of this Report are shown certain details of the personal and individual services provided by the Lancashire County Council as the Local Health and Welfare Authority, under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946, the National Assistance Acts 1948-1952, the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the Children Act 1948, and the Mental Health Act 1959. Also included therein for your information are some details relating to the facilities available for chemical and bacteriological investigations, and a general outline of Hospital arrangements, together with a short account of the work undertaken at the "School Clinic" premises in Green Lane, Woolston.

In conclusion may I once again express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Health Committee and of the Council, for your help and support, and perhaps particularly for the confidence and trust which you have placed in me during the year and throughout my term of Office as Medical Officer of Health both before and since the War of 1939-45. To the Clerk, Mr. Mortimore, always so willingly helpful, the Heads of other departments,

and particularly to Mr. Morrison, Chief Public Health Inspector, and the staff of the Health Department itself, I convey my most sincere thanks for the way in which each and every one has fulfilled his or her responsibilities, willingly, loyally and efficiently, to the very best of their capabilities and abilities in their several fields of activity. It has indeed been a great pleasure to lead and work in association with such a team. To Dr. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Heath, Dr. Sewell, Deputy County Medical Officer, and many colleagues in the Health Department at Preston I am also greatly indebted for their ready advice and assistance for which I offer my best thanks, as also to Dr. Moore, my good friend and colleague, Medical Officer of Heath of Warrington, who could not have been more helpful in so many ways over the years, and whose services have worked in such close liaison with our own over such a long period of time.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION I.

### PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Warrington Rural District is situate in the South-west of the County of Lancaster. It is bordered on the North by the districts of the County Borough of St. Helens and the Urban Districts of Newton-le-Willows and Golborne; to the East is the Urban District of Irlam, and on the West is the Rural District of Whiston and the Borough of Widnes. The southern boundary, which is also the County boundary, is the Manchester Ship Canal, and the northern perimeter of Warrington County Borough.

The area of the district is approximately 35 square miles, being 14 miles from east to west, with a narrow waist of about two miles in the centre between Warrington and Newton, broadening to an average width of about six miles.

Agriculture is the principal occupation in the area, but there are in the more urban parishes a variety of industries, including light engineering, brewing, brick making and paint manufacture.

The area is, as a whole, comparatively low-lying with only a gentle undulation to relieve the otherwise flat landscape. The fall of the land is to the south, with the streams and brooks discharging into the River Mersey, which winds its way across the southern portion of the district only slightly to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal.

### DISTRICT STATISTICS

Area (acres) .....	22,733
Estimated population, (mid. 1960) .....	32,200
Number of inhabited houses and flats .....	9,019
Rateable value .....	£356,777
Sum represented by a 1d. rate .....	£1,355
Births assignable to district .....	573
Deaths assignable to district .....	357
“ Natural increase ” .....	216

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## SECTION II.

## VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS :	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate .....	288	271	559
Illegitimate .....	6	8	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	294	279	573
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rates—"Crude" 17·8; "Adjusted" 17·1 per 1,000 Population; Comparability factor 0·96.

The "Adjusted" Live Birth Rate is the "Crude" Live Birth Rate after adjustment by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

	M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS .....	4	9	13

Still Birth rate—22·2 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS :	M.	F.	Total
General .....	171	186	357

Death Rates—"Crude" 11·1; "Adjusted" 11·3  
Comparability factor 1·02.

The "Adjusted" Death Rate is the "Crude" Death Rate after adjustment by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age) :

Total Infant Mortality Rate—15·7 per 1,000 live births.

	M.	F.	Total
Infant Deaths .....	1	8	9

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants—15·7 per 1,000 live births.  
Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants—Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks—6.

Neo-natal mortality rate—10·5 per 1,000 total live births.

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY :

Still births—13. Deaths in first week—6. Total—19.

Peri-natal mortality rate—32·4 per 1,000 total (live & still) births.

MATERNAL DEATHS—1.

Maternal Death Rate—1·71 per 1,000 total births.

VITAL STATISTICS—COMPARATIVE TABLE

YEAR	LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)		STILL BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			CANCER MORTALITY			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	TOTAL		NEO-NATAL		No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	Per- centage of all deaths		
							No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births					
1960	573	*17.1	357	*11.3	13	22.2	1	1.71	9	15.7	6	10.5	56	1.74	15.7
1959	505	*15.2	324	*10.6	8	16	Nil	Nil	7	13.9	6	11.9	72	2.2	22.7
1958	485	*14.4	323	*9.6	15	30	Nil	Nil	4	8.2	4	8.2	57	1.7	17.6
1957	528	*15.6	366	*10.8	7	13	Nil	Nil	14	27	10	19	69	2.0	18.8
1956	450	*12.5	338	*9.4	7	15	Nil	Nil	14	31	9	20	52	1.44	15.4
1955	439	*12.7	329	*9.5	11	24	1	2.22	11	25	9	21	46	1.33	13.9
Average 5 years 1955—1959	..	14.1	..	9.9	..	20	..	0.4	..	21.2	..	..	59	1.73	17.7

\*ADJUSTED RATES



# COMPARISON OF BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

	Warrington Rural 1959	1960	England & Wales 1960
	Rate per 1,000 population.		
<b>BIRTHS—</b>			
Live—Adjusted .....	15.2	17.1	17.1
Crude.....	15.7	17.8	
Still .....	0.25	0.4	0.34
<b>DEATHS—</b>			
All causes (Adjusted) .....	10.6	11.3	11.5
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis all forms .....	0.09	0.06	0.075
Influenza .....	0.06	0.00	0.02
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia .....	0.40	0.50	0.55
<b>NOTIFICATIONS—</b>			
Typhoid Fever .....	0.00	0.00	0.002
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0.00	0.00	0.005
Meningococcal Infection .....	0.00	0.00	0.014
Scarlet Fever .....	1.46	0.62	0.70
Whooping Cough .....	0.77	0.90	1.26
Diphtheria .....	0.00	0.00	0.001
Erysipelas .....	0.00	0.00	0.065
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles .....	10.21	0.79	3.48
Pneumonia .....	0.53	0.15	0.318
Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis) : Paralytic .....	0.00	0.00	0.006
Non-Paralytic .....	0.00	0.00	0.003
Food Poisoning .....	0.00	0.00	0.169
	<b>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</b>		
<b>DEATHS—</b>			
All causes under 1 year of age ....	13.9	15.7	21.7
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.....	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY—</b>			
Excluding Abortion .....	0.00	0.03	0.31
Due to Abortion .....	0.00	0.00	0.08
	<b>Rate per 1,000 Total (Live &amp; Still) Births.</b>		
<b>NOTIFICATIONS—</b>			
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0.00	0.00	0.192



## DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 290 ; 46 of these were of persons whose usual place of residence was outside the district ; these have been assigned to the areas in which they formerly resided.

113 deaths of persons normally residing in this area, but dying elsewhere, have been included in the total deaths properly assignable to this district.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES .....	171	186	357
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	2	—	2
Tuberculosis—other forms .....	—	—	—
Syphilis .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	5	6	11
"          "          lung, bronchus ....	10	3	13
"          "          breast .....	—	4	4
"          "          uterus .....	—	—	—
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ..	15	13	28
Leukemia, aleukemia .....	—	—	—
Diabetes .....	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	9	16	25
Coronary disease, angina .....	43	33	76
Hypertension with heart disease .....	5	6	11
Other heart diseases .....	32	51	83
Other circulatory diseases .....	6	7	13
Influenza .....	—	1	1
Pneumonia .....	10	6	16
Bronchitis .....	10	8	18
Other diseases of respiratory system ....	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1	1
Congenital malformations .....	1	4	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	9	17	26
Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	1	2
All other accidents .....	3	5	8
Suicide .....	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—

SECTION III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1960

There were 84 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. These tables show the number, by age groups, of Infectious Diseases notified, and the number removed to Hospital.

DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 & Over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Cases occurring in Winwick Hospital
Scarlet Fever .....	20	..	2	4	10	4	..	..	4	..
Measles.....	25	..	8	4	12	..	1	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	31	3	10	4	11	2	1	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Under 5	5—14	15—44	45—64	65 & Over				
Typhoid Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..
Pneumonia .....	5	3	1	..	1	..			..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	..	..	1	..	..			..	..
Dysentery.....	1	1	..	..	..	..			..	..
Erysipelas.....	..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..
Food Poisoning .....	1	..	..	..	..	1			..	..

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—COMPARATIVE TABLE

DISEASE	1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		Mean of Years 55—59	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	20	..	47	..	32	..	23	..	31	..	34	..	33	..
Diphtheria .....	25	..	328	..	82	..	601	..	53	..	155	..	244	..
Measles .....	31	..	25	..	3	..	18	..	16	..	33	..	19	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Enteric group Fevers .....	1	..	3	..	1	..	17	..	..	..	1	..	4	..
Dysentery .....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	65	..	13	..
Food Poisoning .....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	1	..
Meningococcal Infection ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia .....	5	16	17	13	10	12	15	12	44	13	8	11	19	12
Erysipelas .....	13	2	3	3	4	..	1	..	3	7	3	7	3	5
Tuberculosis respiratory ..	..	..	18	..	17	3	35	4	18	..	19	..	21	..
Tuberculosis non-respi- ratory .....	1	..	..	..	3	1	3	..	5	1	5	..	3	..
TOTAL .....	98	18	442	16	155	16	721	16	174	21	324	18	362	17

TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
5 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 .....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 .....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
45 .....	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 .....	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .....	7	6	1	..	2	..	..	..
Grand Totals	13		1		2		..	

CASES OF RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY  
TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER

YEAR	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1956	113	69	182	26	24	50
1957	132	81	213	27	26	53
1958	139	77	216	27	27	54
1959	151	98	249	16	19	35
1960	154	98	252	18	19	37



## SECTION IV.

## FOOD HYGIENE.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

The following details of food samples taken under the above Act, have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A total of 188 samples was obtained, consisting of 143 samples of milk (7 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 45 others comprising :—

3 Coffee and chicory essence	6 Butter
2 Cocoa	1 White pepper
4 Tea	1 Rice
2 Barley	3 Blancmange powder
7 Marmalade	1 Semolina
1 Vegetables, dried	1 Pearl sago
2 Table jelly	1 Mayonnaise
1 Salad cream	1 Dried yeast
1 Pork pies	1 Pork sausages
2 Breakfast food	1 Lemon barley water
1 Orange drink	2 Blackcurrant health drink with Vitamin C.

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :—

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1 Butter	Water contents 16·2%, maximum permitted limit 16%	Vendor cautioned. Further sam- ple obtained
1 Channel Islands	Fat content 3·0% deficient 5·0% fat	Producer Cautioned
1 Dried Yeast	Contained 230 parts per million copper. Recommended limit 120 parts per million	Further sam- ple obtained

## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

All premises used for the preparation and storage of food-stuffs, grocers, butchers, ice-cream suppliers, bakehouses, street traders and food delivery vehicles were inspected. The supervision of canteens in factories, etc., is included in Section VII of this Report. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings for non-compliance with regulations.

### Food Preparing Premises

Type of Business	Number	Inspections
Grocers and Mixed General . . . . .	67	164
Butchers . . . . .	8	21
Fried Fish Shops . . . . .	6	24
Cafes and Mobile Snack Bars . . . .	8	48
Ice-cream Vendors . . . . .	34	

## ICE-CREAM

Number of Retail Vendors registered . . . . .	34
Number of Bacteriological samples taken . . . . .	21
Result of samples . . . . .	Grade 1 14
	Grade 2 6
	Grade 3 1
	Grade 4 —

In general it may be taken that Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and we thus only had one unsatisfactory sample out of a total of 21.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area, and the retailers now registered sell pre-packed ice-cream only.

## MILK SUPPLIES.

Routine milk sampling has continued throughout the year for the purpose of bacteriological analysis, which aims at ensuring a general standard of purity as regards the total number of organisms which affects the keeping quality of milk (Methylene Blue Tests), the efficiency of pasteurisation processes (the Phosphatase Test) and is concerned specifically as to the presence in the samples of the bacillus of tuberculosis, the bovine species of which is of course the cause of tuberculosis diseases in bones, joints and lymphatic glands, and may also attack other organs of the body.

The results of samples submitted to various tests are :—

Raw Milk	No. of Samples	No. Unsatis.
Tuberculosis—Biological Test . . . . .	1	—

#### HEAT TREATED MILK

“ Pasteurised Milk ”

Phosphatase Test . . . . .	82	—
Methylene Blue Reduction Test . . . .	78	4

In all cases of positive results of test for tuberculosis information is forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of Ministry of Agriculture who arranges for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations were as follows :—

Designation	Regulations	Type of Licence	No. Issued.
Tuberculin Tested	Milk (Special Designation) Raw Milk Regs. 1949.	Dealer's	11
Tuberculin Tested	do.	Supplementary	8
Pasteurised	Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regs. 1949	Dealer's	22
Pasteurised	do.	Supplementary	14
Pasteurised T.T.	do.	Dealer's	8
Pasteurised T.T.	do.	Supplementary	7
Sterilised	do.	Dealer's	36
Sterilised	do.	Supplementary	8

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The bulk of this work continues at a Bacon factory where line dressing is in progress and which places on the Inspector a responsibility which has to be resolved within probably no more than one minute. This duty is exacting and demands both mental and physical output of the highest order.



## Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, Calves			Pigs			Sheep		
	1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960
Number killed (if known) ..	3	3	Nil	78,121	79,544	64,452	Nil	11	Nil
Number inspected .....	3	3	Nil	78,121	79,544	64,452	Nil	11	Nil
<b>All diseases, except T.B. :</b>									
Whole carcases condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	147	202	129	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	4,113	4,788	3,699	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.45%	6.2%	5.9%	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>									
Whole carcases condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	119	107	28	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,015	1,489	1,198	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.45%	2%	1.9%	Nil	Nil	Nil

## OTHER FOOD-STUFFS CONDEMNED.

Of the food inspected the following was voluntarily surrendered.  
This class of food-stuff is examined on special request or in the course of routine visits to food premises.

46 tins fruit.  
25 tins meat.  
12 tins vegetable.  
4 tins milk.  
4 tins fish.  
111 lbs. meat.  
20 lbs. margarine

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 TO 1954.

There are 25 Slaughtermen holding licences granted by this Authority.



## SECTION V.

### HOUSING.

The number of inhabited houses and flats in the area is gradually rising and now totals 9,019. New construction is gaining pace and shows a most creditable increase since 1953, an increase which is due to private developers. The average number of houses completed by the Council each year since 1948 is 71 and this year 48.

The total number of Council Houses is now 1,124; private houses completed totalled no less than 468 and thus 516 houses were available for occupation for the first time in 1960.

In view of the fact that private construction is high, that there is a turnover in Council tenants of approximately 70 per year, that there are few applicants on the housing lists with urgent need, and that present interest rates remain high, it is the Council's intention not to construct any houses during 1961.

Although the re-housing problem may now be considered to be a minor one it is felt that there is still a need for bungalows for aged persons, the fulfilment of which would provide greater flexibility in the management of the Council's estates.

Under the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, there are now two types of grant available to owners for modernising houses.

#### 1. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

These are discretionary but include works which apply to the house as a whole. Inspections are made regarding repair works and the application is then dealt with by the Council's Surveyor.

Fourteen applications were made for assistance and fourteen were approved. It is significant that these applications were made in the main by owner-occupiers, but nevertheless, fourteen houses have been brought up to modern standards which may otherwise not have been the case.

#### 2. STANDARD GRANTS

These are obligatory and are to provide the sanitary essentials — Bath, W.C. Wash-hand basin, hot water and a foodstore. The administration of these Grants is controlled by the Chief Public Health Inspector and the procedure involves the costing of the improvements and a comparison with the contractor's estimate. The

number of applicants is steadily rising but it is considered more use would be made of this type of grant if loans by the local authority to the owners were readily available.

No. of Houses for which applications made	34
No. of improvements completed.....	26
Total amounts of grants.....	£2557/9s/3d

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Control Act, 1957 has continued to fall and may now be considered insignificant.

Application for Certificate of Disrepair .....	3
No. of "G" Forms checked at houses ...	3
No. of Certificates authorised .....	3
No. of Certificates refused .....	Nil
Notices of Proposal to issue Certificates (J) .....	3
Undertakings accepted "K" .....	1
Undertakings refused.....	Nil
Certificates of Disrepair issued .....	2

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

	Prefabricated			Traditional		
	Temporary Permanent			Permanent		
	1958	1959	1960	1958	1959	1960
Local Authority .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Flats 9	59	48
				Houses 30		
Other bodies and persons	Nil	Nil	Nil	241	293	468

CARAVANS.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, Local Authorities could grant Licences to persons to allow land occupied by them to be used as a site for caravans or to a person to permit him to occupy a caravan. There are special exceptions, but in general this may be taken to be the rule.

Standard conditions for site licences are in force and two sites are licensed. Personal licences were issued in 99 cases for 6 monthly periods and the extent of this particular duty may be gauged by the fact that no less than 394 visits were made by Inspectors.

The following conditions are enforced in the case of personal licences:—

1. Provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation.
2. Provide a suitable dustbin for the storage of refuse.
3. Provide an adequate water supply.
4. The waste water to be discharged over a trapped gulley connected to a suitable soakaway. The gulley to be surrounded with an area of cement concrete.
5. The Caravan to be sited on a hard standing.
6. The Site to be kept in a clean and tidy condition.



The use of a moveable dwelling in this area is purely for housing purposes ; either because permanent housing accommodation is required, or the occupier prefers to live in a caravan, or housing accommodation is required for a temporary period only. Fortunately, the bad type of occupant and the number of structurally unsatisfactory vans have been kept to a minimum by vigorous action.

On the 29th August, 1960, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 came into force. This Act consists of two main parts, part one introduces the Licensing System operated by Local Authorities to regulate the establishment and operation of Caravan Sites. This Act is a development of and replaces previous legislation. The second part of the Act amends the law relating to Town and Country Planning and strengthens the enforcement of Planning Control both with regard to Caravans and General Development. A considerable amount of work is involved in reviewing the Caravan Sites throughout this area and it will be some time before all sites have been reviewed and the appropriate planning permission and Licensing granted.

## INSPECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTIES.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ..... 749
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .... 1,147
2. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 12
3. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 287

### REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..... 237

### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil



(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a) By Owners .....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

*(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 237

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners .....	45
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	10

*(c) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17)*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 11

(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed ..... 1

### LEGAL ACTION.

<i>Case</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Court decision.</i>
No. 1	Various	Nuisance Order granted. 28 days.
No. 2	Various	Application for Nuisance Order Case adjourned until 4.1.1961
No. 3	Various	Application for Nuisance Order — Nuisance Order granted — 56 days
No. 4	Various	Application for Nuisance order — Nuisance Order granted — 28 days

## SECTION VI.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

A piped supply of water extends throughout the area, with the exception of some isolated farms and cottages. The principal supplier is Warrington Corporation, but a small area of Cuerdley Parish is supplied by Liverpool Corporation.

Pollution still exists in a deep well source of supply, but the provision of suitable chlorination and de-chlorination equipment enables the supply to be continued. The scheme for the sewerage of what is a scattered Rural Area has been prepared and is being submitted to the appropriate authorities for their approval.

The number of houses without a proper supply of water within the house has been gradually reduced and the table below indicates how small these cases now are.

The following samples have been taken :—

7 Samples	Type			
	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Satisfactory	Unsatis.	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
	2	1	4	—
From Public Mains		From Private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.		
PARISH	Direct to houses			
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population	
Burtonwood .....	794	2	3	
Croft .....	525	1	3	
Cuerdley .....	50	..	..	
Penketh .....	1,652	..	..	
Poulton .....	2,005	..	..	
Rixton .....	599	1	3	
Sankey .....	1,818	..	..	
Winwick plus				
Mental Hospital .....	517	..	..	
Woolston .....	1,055	..	..	
Total Whole District ..	9,015	4	9	

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The area is traversed from north to south by two main streams—the Sankey Brook and the River Glaze. Across the southern boundary runs the River Mersey, the eventual outlet for these streams. There are several smaller brooks winding through the area, but none of any particular note.

The development of proper sewerage systems are required to remove extensive pollution and, until this occurs, then our rivers and streams will remain as such in name only. It is most essential that when pollution is reduced by the construction of proper sewerage schemes, new pollution is not allowed by development outside the scheme.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The method of drainage from a large number of properties in the area consists of treatment in a septic tank and discharging into the nearest ditch or stream. This effluent in all cases was unsatisfactory and without adequate filtration cannot of course be satisfactory. Large numbers of these tanks will be replaced by the new sewerage schemes and no new installations are being provided unless they are built to a standard specification and provided with a suitable filter.

The position with regard to sewerage schemes as a whole may be summarised as below:-

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Sewers</i>	<i>Conversions</i>
Burtonwood & Collins Green	Completed	Completed
Croft	Scheme prepared. Date of completion not known	Very few
Cuerdley	Sewers completed	Completed
Penketh	Sewers to be completed 1961	Completion date probably end of 1962
Poulton-with-Fearnhead	Sewers completed	Complete by end of 1962
Rixton Hollins Green	Complete except for two minor lengths	To be completed during the end of 1962
Glazebrook	Sewerage scheme to be connected to new works at Irlam U.D. probably during 1963	Completion by 1963
Sankey	Sewers to be completed 1961	By end of 1962
Winwick Houghton Green	Scheme prepared. No completion date	No completion date
Winwick St. Oswalds	Scheme completed	Completed
Woolston	Scheme completed	By end of 1962



## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Since the completion of the Poulton and Woolston Sewerage Scheme, in particular there has been a noticeable change in the ditches and streams within the parishes, clear water now running where previously almost crude sewage was customary.

The extensive work of the past few years is now coming to fruition and within the very near future the whole of the larger populated parishes will be adequately sewered. It is anticipated that the remaining parishes will be completed within the foreseeable future.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse, together with its ancillary functions by the Local Authority, is under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector. The collection service, which is weekly, is carried out by special-type refuse vehicles, with loaders' cabs. Due to the fairly long distances that machines have to travel from the depot, the inclusion of the loaders in the driver's cab is obviously a desirable feature. Certainly the weather protection and additional safety provided appear to be thoroughly appreciated by the workmen.

The collection of pail contents is carried out weekly by a similar machine. A detachable tank is mounted on rollers inside the body, a method which simplifies both loading and unloading. Supplies of both liquid and powder disinfectants are carried in order that pail compartments and pails may be treated as required. This procedure is far from satisfactory, but is probably as effective as any other under the circumstances. The only solution to this problem is the conversion of the pail closets as rapidly as possible to a water-carriage system.

All workmen are provided with protective clothing, and although this provision is by no means cheap, yet it is a feature that is now a necessity if workmen are to be encouraged to engage in this class of work.

The provision of dustbins and sanitary pails is carried out by the Local Authority as a rate charge and enables unsatisfactory bins and pails to be replaced with the minimum of delay. The storage of refuse at the home, pending collection, must obviously be in a hygienic manner, and this can only be effected by the provision of a proper receptacle. B.S.S. bins are purchased in bulk and delivered weekly. Weekly reports are received from each driver, of the bins and pails requiring replacement, the addresses are checked in a card index file, the bin or pail is inspected, and delivery receipts are signed by the householder. Where a bin is being mis-used, a visit is paid by an inspector, when the householder is warned that they will be held liable for replacement. Three sizes of bins are issued— $3\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 cubic feet, the size of bin being decided by the type of house and size of family.

A scheme for the quarterly inspection of vehicles by a sub-committee at which points are awarded for maintenance and cleanliness has provided a competitive spirit in this work, and the monetary prizes awarded appear to take second place to the pride which the winning driver takes in his achievement. This scheme has raised vehicle care and maintenance to a higher level and ensures that each driver becomes fully cognizant of what is required of him.

The disposal of dry refuse takes place at several tips throughout the area, and, although sometimes they are not as "controlled" as one would wish, they are a decided improvement over past methods of disposal. A Howard Bulloader is used to excavate soil and cover the tipping sites. Wire netting screens are provided to prevent nuisance by blowing paper, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the sites are satisfactory.

The gradually increasing number of houses of the semi-detached and detached type, and the conversion of hostel sites into flats has, because of long carries, considerably increased the collection time since the end of the war. A special twice-weekly collection of refuse is made from certain sites, and in one case a daily collection is made. For these additional services a special charge is made.

#### STATISTICS:

##### Machines employed—

Karrier Dual Tip, Diesel .....	3
Karrier Bantam with "Derby" body .....	2
Karrier CK.3, with "Derby" body .....	2
Karrier CK.3, Refuse Collector, with standard steel body .....	1
Karrier Gamecock .....	1
Commer van 7 cwt .....	1
Commer van $\frac{3}{4}$ ton .....	1
Trailers .....	3
Platypus Tractor .....	1

##### Workmen—

Number of Drivers .....	8
„ „ Labourers, all classes .....	24
Foreman .....	1

##### Dustbins and Pails—

Number of Dustbins provided .....	651
„ „ Pails provided .....	40

Income from Trade Refuse collections .....	£1,072.1.10
Income from Refuse Disposal .....	£14.10.0



## SALVAGE.

The direct collection of salvage has been confined solely to waste paper and cardboard. Due to the scattered nature of the area and the number of tipping sites, it is not considered that other materials could be separated and sold at a profit.

The collection of waste paper is made by means of large, covered trailers behind a refuse collection vehicle. The provision of a smart trailer serves a two-fold purpose—a good advertisement, and, secondly, an eminently suitable collection method.

Shops and large business premises are visited once each week by a special vehicle. The sorting of paper at tips is not as thorough or as satisfactory as one would wish, due to the soiling of paper after mixing with household refuse.

## STATISTICS :

The amount of waste paper sold during the last three years was as follows :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
1958 . . . . .	327	0	2 . . . .	2,675	12	0
1959 . . . . .	238	0	2 . . . .	1,940	4	2
1960 . . . . .	222	0	2 . . . .	1,606	7	4

A bonus is paid to workmen on the weight of paper collected each month above a fixed datum figure. Salvage prices have continued to fluctuate, but the reduction in the amount of paper collected is due to the limitation of sales by the purchasing company.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are pursued in this sphere of work. One operative is engaged whole-time and one part-time, and the methods used are those recommended by the Ministry. Both operators and the general foreman have undertaken special instruction courses organised by the Ministry.



All Local Authority's properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., were regularly inspected and treated. The sewers and sewer ditches were test-baited and treated where necessary.

On private properties treatment is carried out by agreement. Private houses are charged where the costs are recoverable, but all business premises are charged the full cost of treatment. The two offensive trade factories are both classed as areas of reservoir infestation, and both have private contracts in force with service operators.

Farmers and threshing contractors are reminded annually of their duties when threshing ricks by means of circulars, but unfortunately it is necessary to threaten legal action for full compliance.

Rodent control is a statutory duty of a Local Authority, and effective measure must be undertaken to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum. Contract schemes are undertaken for farmers and special premises, this service is expected to expand with the cessation of rodent contracts by the County Agricultural Committee.

#### STATISTICS :

The number of infestation treatments were as follows :—

	Major.	Minor.
Business premises . . . . .	1	41
Private dwellings . . . . .	—	197
Local Authority . . . . .	—	9

In addition, 79 manholes were test-baited.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Regular observations have been made of all factory chimneys for smoke emission. The visits and advice of your Inspectors has resulted in a considerable improvement at various factories. New furnaces have been fitted in a wire rope factory ; automatic stokers, new boilers, and conversions to oil firing have all helped to reduce this problem.

Byelaws relating to the installation of suitable firegrates in new houses came into force on 1st July, 1958.

Probably the most potent factor affecting the use of smokeless fuels is that of price. Large numbers of so-called overnight burners have been installed, mostly incorrectly, and are used to burn coal slack in a manner calculated to provide the most pollution.

## VERMINOUS AND FILTHY PREMISES.

The days when the serious infestation by bugs, of numbers of houses, seem to have gone, certainly so in this district. The residual toxicity of D.D.T. seems to have provided a long-awaited answer to the problem. Very few houses required treatment and, of these, the infestations were not heavy.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the area, only one of which is in full production. The trades carried out are fat extraction, bone boiling, and glue making. One factory is also combined with a Knackers' yard and produces pet foods.

To prevent flies, each factory carries out spray patrol, whereby the whole of the premises are treated with D.D.T. insecticides. This system has proved of marked benefit.

Premises in Risley, used for breeding maggots for use as fish bait, not legally an Offensive Trade, have been regularly visited to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness and control is maintained.

This class of work takes up a surprising amount of inspectorial time, particularly in the warmer months of the year, and yet it is only by maintaining regular and continued visits that satisfactory results are obtained.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The fact that the majority of houses in the area are of comparatively modern construction, and that ditches and streams were available for the discharge of effluents has, in spite of the lack of sewerage systems, been responsible for the majority having water closets with treatment by means of a septic tank. Over 70 per cent. of the houses in the district were originally so fitted. The remaining number are provided with pail closets.

Conversions are now being carried out in all Parishes where the sewerage scheme is sufficiently far advanced.

The position at the 31st December was as follows :—

W.C. Conversions completed at :—

Burtonwood, & Collins Green	9
Croft and Risley	2
Padgate	5
Penketh	1
Rixton	16
Sankey	1
Winwick	3
Woolston	8

Appropriate notices are being served on Owners of properties where conversions can be made and 50% of the approved cost paid in each case. Where owners carry out such work voluntarily, a similar grant is made. Extensions and improvements have now been carried out to nearly all licensed premises, but difficulties exist where sewers are not available—particularly Croft parish. Grants paid towards cost of conversions £675.

The number of pails in use :—

	Houses	Caravans
Burtonwood.....	45	9
Croft .....	145	21
Poulton .....	106	8
Penketh.....	221	13
Rixton .....	70	4
Sankey .....	127	9
Winwick .....	29	9
Woolston .....	65	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	808	99
	<hr/>	<hr/>



## SECTION VII.

### INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are now 42 factories registered in the area, the principal ones being engaged in tanning, light engineering, wire-rope making and brewing. Routine inspections have been made and the attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories has been drawn to matters within his jurisdiction.

Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene practised in the canteens. Some of these are maintained and run to the highest standards, but in others, constant supervision is necessary. A special approach is made to each manageress and staff to ensure that scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene. Circulars and posters have been provided for use within the canteens and kitchens.

Number of Canteens : 15.

Good co-operation has existed with all factory managements and in no case has there been any necessity for statutory action on any of the matters for which the Local Authority is responsible.

### SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Certain duties in the inspection of shops devolve on this Authority and certain others on the County Council. The inspectoral duties of the County Council have now been delegated to this Authority. The procedure is for half-yearly reports to be sent to the County on the matters for which it holds responsibility for action to be taken where necessary. It is unfortunate that this procedure tends to discourage the Inspector concerned from taking more than a cursory interest in this sphere of work.

It has not been found necessary to take statutory action to secure any of the requirements under the purview of this Council, all recommendations having been dealt with informally.

## SHOPS.

<i>Type of Business.</i>	<i>Numbers</i>
Grocers and Mixed General .....	68
Greengrocery and Fruiterers .....	8
Butchers .....	8
Fried Fish Shops .....	6
Cafes and Mobile Snack Bars .....	8
Newsagents .....	8
Hardware .....	6
Drapers .....	4
Hairdressers .....	3
Chemists .....	2
Post Offices .....	6
Boot Repairers .....	1
	<hr/>
	128
	<hr/>

## PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE STORAGE.

The number of Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium are as follows :—

Number of Licences to store Petroleum .....	63
„ „ gallons of storage capacity .....	93,660
„ „ Licences to store Carbide .....	3
Total amount of Carbide permitted .....	1,792 lbs.
Number of Licences to store other spirits .....	6
Total amount of Fees paid :—	£ s. d.
Petroleum .....	47 3 0
Carbide of Calcium .....	1 0 0
Cellulose .....	1 12 0
	<hr/>
	£49 15 0
	<hr/>

The renewal of licences for the storage of petroleum and carbide is at the end of each year. Inspections have been made with particular attention to new premises and the testing of underground storage tanks at the older petrol stations.

## MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

Inspections have been carried out under the Public Health Act 1936 and the Factories Act 1937 to ensure that adequate means of escape in case of fire are provided to the type of premises controlled. These duties ceased to be a function of this Authority during the present year.

## SECTION VIII.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS  
1960

Water supply .....	25
Drainage .....	528
Stables and Piggeries .....	8
Offensive Trades .....	41
Fried Fish Shops .....	23
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	400
Factories .....	72
Workplaces .....	14
Licensed Premises .....	19
Refuse Collection .....	531
„ Disposal .....	392
Defective Bins .....	651
„ Pails .....	40
Rats and Mice .....	247
Atmospheric pollution .....	21
Schools .....	11
Shops Act .....	302
Salvage .....	121
Petroleum .....	72
Rent Act 1957 .....	6
Improvement Grants .....	32
Conversions .....	464
Miscellaneous .....	43

## UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected .....	601
Visits paid to above houses .....	907

## UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected .....	148
Visits paid to above houses .....	240
Standard Grants .....	347

## OVERCROWDING.

Number of houses inspected .....	2
Visits paid to above houses .....	9

## VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses inspected .....	5
Visits paid to above houses .....	12
Miscellaneous Housing Visits .....	82



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease .....	28
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection .....	16
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits .....	5

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Visits to Slaughter-houses .....	652
„ „ Butchers .....	21
„ „ Grocers .....	68
„ „ Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	12
„ „ Dairies and Milkshops .....	5
„ „ Ice-cream premises .....	1
„ „ Food preparing premises .....	67
„ „ Restaurants .....	20
„ „ Canteens .....	58
„ „ Schools .....	11

## Milk samples :—

Bacteriological .....	95
T.B. ....	1
Ice-cream samples .....	20
Miscellaneous food visits .....	17

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## SECTION IX.

### PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

#### (1) LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

##### *Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.*

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, food, "swabs", etc., for *bacteriological* investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or the Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Monsall, Manchester: the *chemical* analysis of water, milk and other samples of food and drugs is undertaken at the County Analyst's Department, County Offices, Preston.

#### (2) HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

##### *(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board : Warrington and District H.M.C., and Winwick and Newchurch H.M.C.).*

Although the Rural District contains no general hospitals within its boundaries, it is, of course, well served by the two major hospitals situated in Warrington County Borough, the Warrington Infirmary and the General Hospital, Warrington which deal with general medical, surgical, obstetric and gynaecological cases, and those requiring specialist advice and/or treatment such as ophthalmic, orthopaedic, paediatric, nose and throat conditions, skin diseases and so on. Casualties and emergency cases are dealt with at both hospitals, although the former are more usually conveyed to the Warrington Infirmary in the first instance. Obstetric and Maternity cases are usually admitted to the maternity unit at the General Hospital, and in addition of course the more straightforward maternity cases requiring accommodation may be admitted to Victoria Park Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington. Cases of infectious disease (other than smallpox), are catered for by the Aikin Street Infectious Diseases Hospital, which also has a block accommodating cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis. Cases of smallpox, should they arise, would under present arrangements be conveyed to the special smallpox hospital at Rock Ferry, in the Wirral, which for many years now has been the "first-line" hospital for such cases: but from the beginning of 1961 the old Warrington smallpox hospital at Great Sankey, now being re-designed, renovated and re-equipped will become available for this purpose. In addition to the above, hospitals administered by the St. Helens and District H.M.C., particularly Cowley Hill Hospital, St. Helens, and Whiston Hospital, not infrequently admit maternity cases for which beds



cannot be made available in Warrington : and a small proportion of our residents are of course from time to time referred to specialists on the Staffs of the “ teaching hospitals ” attached to the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool.

Persons requiring advice and treatment, or simply observation and supervision for mental disorders or diseases may be admitted to Winwick Hospital, the one large hospital which *is* situated within the Rural District, and one which is widely known and respected throughout the whole of the North Western corner of England. The majority by far of such admissions are now, as for many years past, on a voluntary basis, on the advice of general practitioners and psychiatrists who have been consulted in the first instance at the psychiatric out-patient clinic at the General Hospital, Warrington, and Warrington Infirmary.

### (3) AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Services provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act rests with the Lancashire County Council, as the Local Health Authority. This Rural District, enclosing as it does the northerly boundaries of the Warrington County Borough, for its greater part is serviced by ambulances of the County Borough operating on behalf of the County Council, the parishes so served being those of Penketh, Great Sankey, Burtonwood (part), Winwick (part), Croft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Woolston, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The remainder of the district is served directly by the County Ambulance Service from the ambulance stations at Newton-le-Willows (Newton-le-Willows 2013), which deals with the northerly parts of the parishes of Burtonwood and Winwick, and at Mill Brow, Widnes (Widnes 2121), which deals with the Parish of Cuerdley.

Cases conveyed by ambulances from the Newton-le-Willows and adjoining county stations during the year totalled 1,207, of which 153 were urgent, and 1,054 non-urgent cases. In addition, the County Borough Ambulance Service, on behalf of the County Council, transported 252 emergency, 2,235 general, and 3 infectious cases, making a total of 2,490, and a combined total of 3,697.

### (4) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

#### *School Health Service : School Clinics.*

Schoolchildren in attendance at schools within the Rural area who require advice and treatment at a school clinic have previously been referred to the Clinics at Widnes, Prescott, Earlestown and Cadishead, where general medical advice and treatment facilities for minor ailments, dental, ophthalmic, orthopaedic and speech defects are available.



Since November 1959, however, the new all-purpose clinic in Green Lane, Woolston, (in close proximity to the new Woolston County Secondary Modern School) has functioned as a School Clinic, with facilities for the inspection and treatment of minor ailments, dental advice and treatment : ante-natal care and infant-welfare sessions have also been held regularly, as also sessions for poliomyelitis vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. For a short period, also, it was possible to arrange for speech therapy, but unfortunately it has not been feasible to continue this as a result of the shortage of Speech Therapists.

The Clinic is staffed by a Medical Officer, Dr. H. G. M. Bennett, a Dental Officer, two School Nurse/Health Visitors, a Dental attendant, and a Clinic Clerk. It is hoped that in the near future it will be found possible to obtain the services of both an orthopaedic specialist and an ophthalmic specialist on a sessional basis.

### *Child Welfare Centres.*

Sessions are held at the Infant Welfare Centres detailed below. At these centres medical and nursing advice is available for all infants and for children of pre-school age, also for expectant mothers, and those recently confined, in relation to matters affecting their general health. Supplies of a variety of infant foods, vitamin preparations, etc., are also available at cost price, together with National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil, the "Welfare Foods", formerly distributed under the auspices of the Ministry of Food. In addition, in special cases, schoolchildren may be examined and parents advised, although, of course, this is not a recognised feature of Infant Welfare Centre work.

#### (a) BURTONWOOD :

Methodist Sunday School, Phipps Lane.  
Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.  
Health Visitor in charge—Miss I. Heap.  
Sessions—Weekly, each Tuesday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

#### (b) CROFT :

Memorial Institute, Mustard Lane.  
Medical Officer—Dr. G. Ellis  
Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. E. I. Griffiths.  
Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Mondays, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

#### (c) PADGATE :

Methodist Sunday School, Padgate Lane.  
Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.  
Health Visitor in charge—Miss E. Atkinson.  
Sessions—Weekly, each Wednesday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

## (d) PENKETH :

Methodist Sunday School, Chapel Lane.  
 Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.  
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.  
 Sessions—Weekly, each Monday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

## (e) SANKEY :

Eagle Sports Club, Hood Lane.  
 Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.  
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss K. Eustace.  
 Sessions—Weekly, each Friday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

## (f) WINWICK :

Methodist Church Hall, Golborne Road.  
 Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.  
 Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. E. I. Griffiths.  
 Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

## (g) WOOLSTON :

School Clinic, Green Lane, Woolston.  
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.  
 Health Visitor—Miss E. Atkinson, Mrs. D. Creighton.  
 Sessions—Weekly, each Thursday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

During the year under review the following attendances were made at the above Welfare Centres :—

## Number of individual children attending :

Born in 1960 .....	430
„ „ 1959 .....	290
„ „ 1955—58 (mean) .....	296
Total .....	<u>1016</u>

## Number of attendances made by children :

Under 1 year of age .....	5,100
1 - 2 years of age .....	1,114
2 - 4 „ „ .....	1,241
Total .....	<u>7,455</u>

In addition, expectant mothers made 309 attendances at these Centres.

## (5) MIDWIFERY ARRANGEMENTS.

Domiciliary. One whole-time domiciliary midwife and five district nurse/midwives are engaged on this work within the Rural District in the employment of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and the Supervising Authority under



the Midwives Acts. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

The names and addresses of these ladies are :—

WHOLE-TIME MIDWIFE :

Mrs. M. A. Lawton, 21 Marina Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Warr. 33236.

WHOLE-TIME NURSE/MIDWIVES :

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate. Tel. No. Warr. 34755.

Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Penketh 2147.

Mrs. F. T. McConnell, 56 Haley Road South, Burtonwood. Tel. No. Newton 3217.

Mrs. C. Price, 10 Arkenshaw Road, Croft. Tel. No. Culcheth 3373.

Mrs. M. A. Taylor, 16 Hawthorne Grove, Paddington. Tel. No. Warr. 33664.

A total of 234 babies were born in their own homes during the year ; with possibly one or two exceptions, their mothers were either actually delivered, or attended, by the midwives and nurse/midwives detailed above. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia was recorded during the year—a high tribute to the standard of midwifery displayed.

(6) HEALTH VISITING ARRANGEMENTS.

This work has been carried out by five whole-time and one part-time Health Visitor, who combine with health visiting duties those of School Nurse. These domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and the health education of the families, are, of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above.

The names and addresses of the Health Visitors are :—

for Sankey, Penketh and Cuerdley :

Miss W. Henry, 38 Greens Road, Whiston, Prescot.

Miss K. Eustace, 5 Haigh Road, Widnes.

for Padgate and Woolston :

Miss E. Atkinson, 88 Whitefield Road, Walton.

Mrs. D. H. Creighton, 13 Higher Knutsford Road,  
Grappenhall. (Part-time)



for Burtonwood :

Miss I. Heap, " Maynard " Belvedere Road, Newton-le-Willows.

for Winwick and Croft :

Miss E. I. Griffiths, 49 Golborne Road, Lowton, via Warrington.

#### (7) HOME NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Home nursing is undertaken by five whole-time nurse/midwives and one whole-time nurse.

The demand for their services has continued to grow during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, an extension of the staff is contemplated within the near future. An increasing proportion of the Nurses' work is made up of cases requiring " Injections " of various kinds.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Mrs. K. Briers, 18 New Road, Croft.  
Phone No. : Culcheth 2520.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate.  
Phone No. : Warrington 34755.

Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey.  
Phone No. : Penketh 2147.

Mrs. F. T. McConnell, 56 Haley Road South, Burtonwood.  
Phone No. : Newton-le-Willows 3217.

Mrs. C. Price, 10 Arkenshaw Road, Croft.  
Phone No. : Culcheth 3373.

Mrs. M. A. Taylor, 16 Hawthorne Grove, Paddington.  
Phone No. : Warrington 33664.

#### (8) HOME HELP ARRANGEMENTS.

This is a permissive service provided by the County Council through No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one of the Local Health Authority responsibilities under the National Health Act, 1946. Its aim is to provide help in homes where such is required owing to the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including tuberculosis), of mental subnormality or disorder, an expectant mother (or one lying-in) or of a child under compulsory school-leaving age. The presence in the household of an aged person also constitutes a justification.

These arrangements are not free of cost to all those benefiting thereby, but in the majority of cases assisted, particularly those who are aged and infirm, no charge is incurred under the County Council's scale.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "Helps"; no whole-time workers are employed.

The Home Help Organiser, and the Assistant Home Help Organiser are :—

Organiser : Miss M. MacLean.

Assistant : Mrs. C. Davies.

Both these ladies may be communicated with at the Divisional Health Offices, Winwick (Tel. Warrington 33144).

During the current year a total of 62 Home Helps, all part-time workers, assisted 208 cases within the Rural District, each "Help" working on average a 25-hour week. The amount of help allocated varies according to the needs of each individual case.

This help was given to people in a number of categories : confinement cases, those suffering from tuberculosis, the aged and infirm, those suffering from long-continued and chronic illnesses, or "other unspecified illness". In the Rural District, of the 208 cases assisted, 139 were aged 65 or over.

#### (9) MENTAL HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS.

The district is covered for this purpose by three full-time Mental Welfare Officers, one a lady, who deals with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Mental Act, 1959.

The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. F. Griffin, 77 Barn Lane, Golborne.

Phone No. : Golborne 563.

Mr. H. Andrews, 419, Newton Road, Lowton.

Phone No. Newton-le-Willows, 3559.

Miss D. M. Bexon, 16 Whitefield Road, Stockton Heath.

Phone No. Stockton Heath, 1202.

It will be appreciated that, owing to the character of the Mental Welfare Officers' duties, twenty-four hour cover is given to this type of work.

The year has of course been one in which special attention has been directed to mental health as the result of the Mental Health Act, 1959, which became fully operative on 1st November 1960.

#### (10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND THE PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority, partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis; "illness" includes mental disorder. The scope of such



arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, (including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis), the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

(b) Responsibility for the supervision of cases of tuberculosis in the homes and for that of family contacts, to ensure appropriate examination and advice by the Chest Physician, now devolves on a single health visitor, covering the whole of the Rural District, and working in the closest contact with the Chest Physicians at clinics in Warrington, Widnes and Newton-le-Willows. The name and official address of the Health Visitor and details of the Chest Clinic sessions concerned with Rural District cases are given below :

Miss M. Monks, c/o Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

#### CHEST CLINICS :

Warrington General Hospital :—

*Sessions* : Tuesday evening, 5.0—8.0 p.m. ; Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m. ; Alternate Fridays, 9.30—10.30 a.m.

Widnes, Chapel Street :—

*Sessions* : Monday, Tuesday and Friday 1.30 — 3.30 p.m.

Newton-le-Willows Chest Clinic, Cottage Hospital, Bradlegh Road :—

*Sessions* : Monday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon ; Wednesday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon.

(c) *Chiropody* A most important measure on the prevention of illness and disability, affecting particularly the elderly and the handicapped, has been the initiation of a chiropody service for these groups, and also for expectant mothers, as the result of a decision of the Ministry of Health that such a Service might properly be provided by Local Health Authorities under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Treatment of this character has for a number of years past been available in certain parishes through the good offices of the Warrington and District Council of Social Service, but the decision of the Ministry has now made possible a considerable extension of these facilities throughout the whole of the Rural District. Treatment is usually carried out at Clinics, or at the Surgeries of the Chiropodists concerned, who are employed (part time) on a sessional basis: but where patients circumstances are such as to preclude their attendance at a surgery or clinic, some treatment is carried out on the production by the patient of a certificate from a doctor, nurse or midwife that this is required.



(d) *Health Education*

As regards Health Education (a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness), it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should continue to be exercised.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria are available to all who desire it for themselves or for their children, either through the family doctor (who undertakes it at his home or at his surgery as part of his duties to the patient) or, on request, by appointment. Such services may be obtained at one of the immunisation sessions which are held at approximately monthly intervals in schools at Great Sankey and Penketh. Immunisation of infants and small children is also undertaken—when circumstances warrant—at the Child Welfare Centres at Burtonwood, Winwick, Croft and Woolston.

The position in regard to diphtheria immunisation, and to small-pox vaccination, shows virtually no improvement. Despite the added attraction of the practicability nowadays of protecting small infants and young children, not only against the possible menace of diphtheria, but against whooping cough and tetanus, through the use of only one triple-purpose antigen, there has been a decline in the proportion of children obtaining such protection (60%). Possibly this may to some extent, be influenced by the unfortunate publicity which has been given to the association between immunisation and the “provocation” of poliomyelitis of the paralytic type; but in my view it is simply the result of parental indifference and apathy which springs from failure to appreciate diphtheria as it used to present itself a generation ago. Much the same reasons, I suggest, are behind the general failure to secure protection against small-pox by vaccination.

During the year, a total of 370 children under 15 years of age completed the full course of immunisation against diphtheria of which 348 were under the age of five years. In addition to the above, 425 children received reinforcement or “booster” injections, making a grand total of 795.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population (under the age of 15 years) in an immunised state as at 31st December, 1960, was 60% as against a figure of 67% for the child population in No. 10 Health Division as a whole.

Only 207 children under one year of age underwent primary vaccination, also 12 persons over the age of 15 years. In addition to the above, a total of 39 persons were re-vaccinated.

If one deducts from the total of 520 live births in 1959 the 6 infant deaths in 1960—out of the 514 survivors only 207 underwent primary vaccination. This low proportion of 40% can only be viewed seriously, as the figure fails to improve as the years pass, despite the efforts of doctors, nurses, health visitors, and health educationists to impress on parents the facts (1) that small-pox is still a potential risk in this country, and (2) that vaccination in the first year of life, whilst conferring substantial immunity over many years, is virtually devoid of risk. One looks here for rather more active support from the family doctor, whose attitude to this question can make all the difference between success and failure.

### POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

The programme of poliomyelitis vaccination which commenced in 1956 with the protection of children in the 2-9 year old age group, and was extended in 1957 and 1958 to include all persons born in 1933 or later, together with additional selected groups considered to be specially vulnerable, (such as expectant mothers, general practitioners and ambulance staff and their families and certain hospital staffs) continued throughout the year.

The following “primary” poliomyelitis “vaccinations” were completed in the Rural District :—

Children under five years of age .....	326
Children and other persons over five years of age..	519
	<hr/>
Total.....	845
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In addition the following reinforcement injections were carried out :—

Children under five years of age .....	673
Children and other persons over five years of age..	2965
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Total.....	3638
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## SECTION X.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on a divisional basis. The main requirements, of Part III relate to the provision of accommodation, both temporary and residential, for persons who are without lodging ; and to Welfare Services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities of a severe and permanently handicapping character.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to Welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 47 of this Act prescribes the procedure whereby aged and infirm persons, if not receiving adequate care and attention in their own homes, may, by a Court Order, be removed to a suitable hospital following a hearing by the Court of evidence in support of a certificate issued by the Medical Officer of Health after close consideration of all the circumstances of the case : whilst the later Act of 1949 amends the original procedures to make it speedily effective in cases of urgency.

Section 50 is of importance in that it places on the County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority".

No action under either of these sections has been called for during the year.

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## SECTION XI.

### THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day-to-day operation of the service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis. The Warrington Rural District lies administratively within the responsibility of the Children's Officer for the Leigh area.

Fortunately the days of serious neglect and wilful brutality have receded, but there still exists an appreciable number of cases where minor degrees of cruelty and neglect arise often as the result of indifference or simply inadequacy on the part of the parents. Such cases must give rise to concern in the minds of a number of different groups of social workers: Children's Visitors, Health Visitors, Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C., etc.—and are not infrequently complicated by insanitary and overcrowded housing conditions, or the frank mental backwardness or defectiveness of parents and/or children. In order to integrate all viewpoints, to consider the action most appropriate and the officer in whose particular sphere of influence the probable remedy lies, case conferences are held which are attended by representatives of both statutory authorities and voluntary agencies which have the interests and welfare of children at heart. These conferences have been most valuable in enabling effective supervisory and remedial measures to be undertaken.

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